delay in clearance have assumed alarming proportions and on an average 50 to 70% more on the original project outlays;

(b) the reasons for which such delays still occur despite liberalisation and simplification of procedure; and

(c) what is the meantime, on an average, between submission of a proposal and its final clearance and whether any measure have been initiated for the speedy clearance of proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING & PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG): (a) and (b) The Central Sector Projects are cleared by the Public Investment board through two-stage clearance system.To ensure adwequate preparation, environmental and other clerances adequate time is given at stage I clearance before a project is finally approved for implementation at stage II. The final clearance is given to the updated cost with provisions for general increase due to price escalation and other factors beyond the control of the project authortities.

The overall cost overrun in project costing Rs. 20 crores and above which are monitored by the Department of Programme Implementation as on 31-3-95 is of the order of 51.4%. Time and cost overrun are the result of various factors such as delay in land acquisition, funds constraints, selection of technology, inadequate infrasturcture, etc. and cannot be attributed solely to the delay in clearance.

(c) The clearance is normally accorded to the projects by the Public Investment Board in a prescribed time frame of 23 months from the date of submission of the proposal to the Government for stage I clearance to the final clearance at stage II.

International trade centre at Gandhidham/Kandla

1403. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Gujarat has set up an International Trade Centre at Gandhidham/Kandla;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what are the distinct advantages envisaged by Government in expanding facilities at this trade contre; and

(d) the details of assistance provided by the Central Government to the State Government for promoting exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE Of THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The Governemnt of Gujarat have reported that no such centre has been set up.

(b) Does not arise;

(c) Does not arise;

(d) Does not arise;

Expert committee report on child labour

1404. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state;

(a) whether an expert Committee of lawyers and social scientists had conducted a survey of match making and fireworks factories and submitted report to the Supreme Court sometime in the past;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon;

(c) whether the Committee sought a complete ban on employing children in hazardous industries like fireworks and match making as also the need for setting up a National Commission for children's welfare to abolish child labour in a phased manner; and

(d) if so, the action taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.